subject of lotteries. One provides that it shall be a misdemeanor for any newspaper published in the District of Columbia, or any Territory of the United States, to insert a lottery advertisement. Another makes it a misdemennor for any person to deposit in the mails any newspaper containing a lottery advertisement or a report of a lottery drawing. The third bill provides for striking out the word "fraudulent" before lottery in Section 4,041 of the Revised Statutes. This is in a line with the last legislation by Congress on the subject. Other sections of the statutes were amended, but Section 4,041 was inadvertently

FRENCH SPOLIATION CLAIMS. ANOTHER EFFORT TO BE MADE TO HAVE THEM ADJUDICATED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 .- Preparations are making for another effort this winter to induce Congress to send the venerable "French Spoliation Claims" to the Court of Claims for adjustment. Bills for that purpose have been offered in both Houses by New-England Senators and Representatives, and their friends seem to think there is good reason to hope for favorable action. The bill offered by Senator Frye, which is substantially like all others on the same subject, provides that citizens of the United States, or their legal representatives, who had valid claims to indemni y upon the French Government on account of captures, confiscations, etc., prior to the treaty of 1800 between the United States and France, and which were not allowed and paid under subsequent treaties, may bring suit for the amount at any time within two years. The Attorney-General must defend such suits, and the Secretary of State must procure and produce not only from his department, but also from the French archives, all evidence and documents practicable relating to said claims-such evidence and documents to be open to the claimants as well as to the United

HISTORY OF THE CLAIMS. The history of these claims is an interesting one. To study the bare outlines of it will cause any one to wonder why the claims have been allowed to remain unsettled for seventy years. Of course, all the original claimants and most of their children died long ago, but, while claimants die, unsettled claims against the Government never perish. Sixtyeight years ago the claimants formed an association, and began concerted efforts to obtain justice The heir of one of the claimants, James H. Causten, became the agent of the association in 1816, and from that time to the day of his death in 1874 he was unremit ing in his efforts. Thirteen years before he began his life-work the House of Representatives, by a majority of thirty-nine votes. adopted a resolution that provision ought to be made by law "to indemuify the claimants"; three years later, in 1806, a House committee reported that the United States was "bound to indemnify the claimants." Other reports of a like nature were made in the ten years which intervened before Mr. Causten began his work. In 1871 he prepared a sketch of the history of his efforts during the preceding fifty-five years. In that period the number of memorials on the files of Congress from the original claimants and their heirs, successors and executors, swelled to more than 4,000, and more than forty favorable reports were made by committees of the Senate and House.

THE MATTER IN CONGRESS. One of the most elaborate was prepared by Henry

Clay, and another by Charles Sumner. Eight times a bill for the relief of the claimants passed the Senate, and twice a like measure passed the House. In 1846 the bill passed both branches of Congress and was vetoed by President Polk, on the

THE COMMITTEE. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Jan. 6.—There will be a meeting of the House Committee on Rules to-morrow to consider several important matters. On December 4 a resolution was adopted providing that the rules of the last House should remain in force until the expiration of two weeks from the date of the appointment of the Committee on Rules. That committee was appointed December 14, and the two weeks, therefore, expired on December 28, so that it is questionable whether any rules will be in force when the House assembles to-morrow. The Speaker is in doubt and one or two members of the Committee on Rules are of opinion that the House will find itself without rules to govern its proceedings. A few of the parliamentarians of the House

maintain that the period of recess should not be counted as any part of the two weeks named in the resolution, and that the rules will, therefore, be in force until the Thursday without further action. The committee will make a report to-morrow which will remove the doubt and relieve the House of a singular embarrassment. It is probable that Mr. Reed, who is a member of the committee, will also present and ask a vote on his amendments to the rules which were favorably reported to the last House but were not acted upon.

The amendments, if adopted, will measureably facilitate the business of the House. A morning hour is provided for action on bills reported by committee; after the expiration of that hour it shall be in order to proceed to business on the Speaker's table or on the Calendar of the Committee of the Whole, or the House Calendar, in the order named. When an motion is made to go into Committee of the Whole it shall be in order for a committee to move to designate a bill to be considered after the House has resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole. On Friday of each week, a majority may carry the House into Committee of the Whole to consider private bills; on the second and fourth Mondays of each month District of Columbia business shall be considered, unless two-thirds of the House otherwise direct; unfinished business shall be in order before the morning hour. Mr. Reed will offer his amendments, not as a party measure, but in the interests of public business, and there is thought to

It seems probable that the majority of the committee will report the new rules, without including the one adopted at the first session of the last Congress, which pravided that only one dilatory motion should be in order pending a motion to consider a contested election case.

# MORE THAN HE USUALLY PAID.

From The Boston Traveller.

The ordinary mortal, when he goes to obtain a The ordinary mortal, when he goes to obtain a license to be married, shows by his brown step, and his general appearance of light-heartedness, that he feels as though a ten-dollar oill was a small price to pay for a document permitting him to center upon what he heliceves will be an era of unalloyed bliss; but that there are persons who are disposed to look at the peactical side of things is shown by a indicrous incident which occurred recently at the office of the remail City Registrar, Mr. Apollonio. A man who is well known in City Hall circles applied for a license and expressed an intention to get married, when the following colleguy chassed:

### CITY GOVERNMENT.

THE "HOME RULE" AMENDMENT.

MR. ANDREWS'S CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT-SEPARATION OF CITIES FROM LEGISLATIVE CONTROL PROPOSED. FROM THE REGULAR COURSPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Jan. 6 .- The loss of a large amount of money by New-York City, through the acceptance of "unbalanced bids" by Commissioner Thompson. and the signs of corruption in every department of New-York's Government have prejudiced the Legis lature against the roposed Home Rule amend ment to the State Constitution. That amendment virtually deprives the Legislature of any power to correct such abuses as exist in New-York departments; putting the control of such natters in the hands of the voters of New-York. "The voters of New-York" is a phrase which rightly interpreted means the County Democracy, Irving Hall, and Tammany Hall. Mr. Thompson is the "boss" of the County Democracy. Under 'home rule" this "boss" would be expected to correct his own abuses of administration in the Department of Public Works-and at the present ioment, if the Home Rule Amendment were a part of the Constitution, would be industriously drubbing his own broad back. Nevertheless, as the interference of the Legislature with city governments: has caused much loss to taxpayers, the amendment will receive careful consideration by the Legislature before it is rejected.

HISTORY OF THE AMENDMENT. The amendment was approved by the Legislature of 1882, and, therefore, if passed the Legislature of 1884 will be submitted to the people next November. It was | the position of the Assemblymen on the committees introduced in the Legislature by William 8, of the Assembly. Senator McCarthy, president Andrews, a Democratic Assemblyman from New- protem of the Senate, has been reading letters York, and passed without opposition. The passage of special laws for cities is forbidden by it; if it becomes a part of the Constitution only general aws affecting every city in the State can be passed by the Legislature. Section 9 of Article 8 of the stitution has the following addition made to it: The Legislature shall not pass any special or local fill affecting the local or municipal government of a city; nor shall the Legislature provide or the filling of any municipal office now existing, or location to be excated, otherwise tuan by popular elec-tion or by appointment of the Mavor, with or without offirmation of the highest legislative branch of the mu-icipal government.

The further statement is then made: The people of every city shall have the power to organ-ze their own local and municipal government, and to ad-minister the same for local and municipal purposes, sub-set only to such general laws as the Legislature may meet.

Mr. Andrews's amendment reopens the debate that has been going on for over thurty years in this State respecting the policy of having the Legislature and the Governor interfere in the government of cities by passing special laws for special occasions. Shall the State trust the government of cities unreservedly to the people living in them? If the noney of taxpayers should be squandered by the officials of cities, is there sufficient public spirit among the voters, only a small proportion of whom are taxpayers, to turn the incompetent officials out and replace them with efficient men? These are questions which again and again have been asked by the voters of the State. They have not yet been answered. Every year the department system in New-York City has been in existence it has steadily lost favor. Lately there has been a general suspicion that the departments are corruptly as well as inefficiently panaged. Not only will the Legislature be called pon to make a thorough investigation of the de-

attentive to the finances of a city from voters whether the payers or not. The last clause of his Amendment reads as follows:

No city shall increase its permanent debt or raise the rate of taxation above that prevailing at the time of the adoption of this autoduction, or undertake new public works, or direct public funds into now channels of expenditure, or issue its bonds, other than revenue bonds, not it he act authorizing the same shall have been published for a least time months, and thereafter submitted to the people of the city at a general election, and have received a underly of all the votes cast for and against it at such election.

at such election. GOVERNOR THIDEN'S COMMISSION. But can the voters of New-York City, nine-tenths of whom are not taxpayers, be trusted to manifest an interest in financial questions? Governor Tilden's "Municipal Commission" thought not. Governor Tilden in 1876 sent a message to the Legislature in which the Buscs of the city government were described and a recommendation was made that a commission be appointed to draw up a plan for reformation. The Commission consisted of William M. Evarts, James C. Carter, E. L. Godkin, John A. Lott Simon Sterne, Oswald Ottendorfer, William Allen Butler, Joshua M. Van Cott, Henry F. Dimock and Samuel Hand. The Commispresented an elaborate report on March 7, 1877, in which in effect, they declared that there was no possible way of securing good and economical government to cities except by limiting government to chies except by manting the control of their finances to tax and rent-payers. They suggested that the entire management of the finances of cities should be given into the hands of boards of finance elected by tax and rent-payers; the boards to have the power of determining the

mount of the annual expenditures of cities, and to prropriate it to its various objects and purposes. The qualifications of persons entitled to vote for nembers of the Board of Finance were to be as The Board of Finance shall be elected by the electors

The Board of Finance shall be elected by the electors of the city who shall, for two years next proceding the election, have paid an annual tax on property owned by them and officially assessed for taxation in such city, of the assessed value of not less than \$500, or shall have actually paid during the same period a yearly rent for prevoices in sald city occupied by them for purposes of residence or lawful business not less than \$250.

The Municipal Commissioners appended to their report a constitutional amendment embodying these singgested reforms in city government. Hamilton Fish, jr., then an Assemblyman from Putnam County, introduced this amendment in 1877, and it passed the Legislature. But it was opposed by the Democratic members of the Legislature on the ground that the property qualification was a limitation of the right of soffrage. The following year, when there was a new Scuale, this objection proved fatal. The Republicans had a scant majority in the Assembly and found it impossible to pass he amendment, one or two Republicans refusing to vote for it. The labors of the commission thus came to maught. ANDREWS'S DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT.

Mr. Andrews's amendment will undoubtedly have the support of the Democratic members of the Legislature, seeing to at if passed it would give the control af the treasury of New-York City to the leaders of the vast Democratic majority in that leaders of the vast Democratic importly in that city. The Republican members, even if not actu-tion. The premium list for these additions will be ated by partisan motives will, it is suspected, oppose the amendment on the ground that it would him from the hatchery at Cold Spring Harbor, L. L. be unsafe to confide the government of cities solely to the people residing in them. In relation to this matter Governor Filden's Commission said:

If has been proposed to deprive the Legislature of the power of intervention. Objection—The cities would be left entirely unprotected against those evil agencies which in the aquactum display, it is backering to said and from somo and the control of the will be for early to said and from somo and the said and from somo and the said and from somo and the said of the control of the control of the said and from somo and the said and the said

It has been proposed to deprive the Legislature of the power of intercention. Objection—The cities would be let entirely in rotacted against those evil agencies which have seemed in many instances to make a resort to the central authority absolutely necessary.

well known, he is treated as a respectable person, and is regarded as one of the most successful men of the place. Almost immediately on his arrival in Buenos Ayres he succeeded in borrowing money sufficient to establish his newspaper, The Daily Herstel. This has been successful from the start, and is now published in French and Sponish, as well as in English. This is a Sunday paper as well as a daily, and Mr. Winslow's religious homilies in his Sunday edition are said to be as good reading as the latitude of Buenos Ayres affords. He has become the owner of a handsome block of buildings, drives the bost pair of horses in Buenos Ayres, which, by the way, is a city of 500,000 people, and lives in a handsome duitan on the outskirts. He has a telephone from his business office to his residence, and does most of his editing there. Soon after his arrival in Buenos Ayres he succeeded in marrying a yottor woman, and went to England on his wedding trip, but remained there out a short time, for fear of an application from the United States for his extradition. My informant says that since he has been in Buenos Ayres he has been to Europe twice on important missions for the Government of that country, and that he has the entre at the President's house, where he even takes precedence of the President's ministerial advisers, who are obliged to wait until his business is done before they go in to do theirs. He is so powerful that he would have no difficulty in breaking down any person who should undertakete expose or oppose him, and no one cares to do it. He is a member of the principal club of the piace, and is personally intimate with the American Minater. He has experienced only one rebuff since his residence in that country becam, which was his expuision from the church on account of the disclosure of the base treatment of his first wife, whom he abandoned to penuy in Massachusetts. It is said that he has not manifested any dissonstion to pay off the amounts realized out of his forgeres in Boston. His credit in Buenos Ay

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES. GOSSIP ABOUT THE CHAIRMANSHIPS.

UNUSUALLY DIFFICULT WORK FOR THE SPEAKER

AND SENATOR M'CARTHY. [FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] Albany, Jan. 6 .- Speaker Sheard began examining yesterday several hundred letters in relation to of a like nature affecting the Senators. Before gohome most of the Senators visited Senator McCarthy and expressed their desires respecting the the Assemblymen, although he was easily accessible. Most of the Assemblymen wrote to Mr. Sheard, telling him on what committees they desired to serve.

MANY NEW MEMBERS. Both Senator McCarthy and the Speaker find their work difficult, owing to the number of new members, whose abilities are unknown. In the Senate only about one-third of the old members were returned, while in the Assembly the proportion of old members is even less. Moreover, Mr. Sheard was not a member of the last Legislature and is, therefore, not acquainted with members who can be called "old members." It is five years since Mr. Sheard was in the Assembly General Husted is the only member of the present Assembly who was in the Assembly of 1879 with Mr. Sheard.

RUMORS ABOUT APPOINTMENTS. The two presiding officers have merely sketched out their lists. Of course, there are already rumors regarding the chairmen of the important committees. These rumors can hardly be said to have a basis. There are leading men in the Senate and the Assembly who will have high positions; it is an easy task for politicians to assign them to various committees. Pressure is put upon Senator McCarthy and the Speaker to appoint certain men to certain committees by setting affoat rumors that the appointments have actually been made. It can be stated that the committee lists have as yet only been lightly sketched, and that men assigned to certain committees are likely in the two days intervening before the Legislature meets to be shifted to other committees.

which permits the Govenor to veto items of the appropriation bills. Mr. Rossevelt if appointed chairman of the committee, would be compelled to give it all his attention and would thus have no time to would be completed to give it all his attention and would thus have no time to attend to the bills affecting New-York City, with

which he is so well acquainted.
GENEROUS TO THEIR SUPPORTERS. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Erwin have generously informed the Speaker that they do not in the least care what becomes of them, so far as committee po-

TEREST MANIFESTED.

The Fanciers' Club of this city has arranged

for an exhibition of poultry and pet stock, to be held in Madison Square Garden from January 23 to January 30. It was thought, when this second annual show was first talked of, that the hall of the garden used last season would suffice; but the purpose was no sooner made public than applications for space came from every direction, and it was soon evident that the entire garden would give none too much room. The regular premium list provides orizes for every recognized variety of poultry and pigeons; for records of homing pigeous, individually and in collecions; for song and ornamental birds and for small furbearing animals, whether bred for use, pleasure or profit, In poultry the exhibit will be of the highest order, as the judges are to be instructed to award first prize to none coring less than 180 points to the pair; 170 to be the minimum for second; 160 for third. This is four points in excess of the requirements at the best exhibition heretofore. The judges in the poultry classes are: G. O. Brown, of Baltimore; G. S. Pratt, of Bridgeport; J. D.

Nevins, of Philadelphia: I. K. Felch, of Natick, and J. E-

Dichi, of Beverly. For pigeons: W. Gardner White, of

Chicago, and W. J. Stanton, of New York. Both of these departments are to be in charge of J. H. Baldwin, of After this list was given to the printer, it was decided to add a special department for eats, offering prizes for every variety; the whole to be in charge of Dr. A. Watts, who has so successfully managed the cat shows of Boston. Eagene S. Blackford also arranged with the executive committee for space for a pisci-

Bridgeport, Meriden, Keyport and Philadelphia. Each Bridgeport, Meriden, Keyport and Tamacapana. Paco section to compete within itself.

The officers of the Fanciers' Club elected last week are: President, C. J. Quimby; vice-presidents, E. T. Bailey and Philander Williams; secretary, Chas. R. Harker; treasurer, J. C. Long, jr. The annual meeting of the federation of the fanciers of pigeon flying will be ited at the federation of the fanciers of pigeon flying will be ited at the garden at eleven o'clock on January 25. At two o'clock the same day, the Race Committee will meet to take action on rules to govern all journeys for record, and to make arrangements for the races of the coming season.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT ABROAD.

AMERICAN ENERGY IN THE OLD WORLD. IMMENSE PROGRESS MADE BOTH IN ENGLAND AND

ON THE CONTINENT. Frederick A. Gower, the well-known telephone inventor and capitalist, was in his parlor in the Victoria Hotel when a Tribune reporter called yesterday. Eight years ago Mr. Gower was a journalist at a small salary in Providence, R. L. Last year his telephone interest in England alone was sold for \$700,000 in cash. He is a member of the Physical Society of France, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, etc., and is known among electricians as the youngest of the telephone millionnaires Most of his time is spent in Paris and London. The fre porter made some inquiries as to electric lighting in Europe, in which Mr. Gower is lar, ely interested.

"Electric lighting in Europe," said Mr. Gower, "is advanced ing more rapidly than the American public seem to realize. The fact is that artificial light is a more important matter in several of the European countries than even in America. The air is often heavy with smoke of the soft coal so generally used, and tall buildings in most of the large cities are closely crowded together. Gas is usually far poorer in quality than here, and modern improve ments in making it are slowly adopted. It is rarely used in bedrooms and almost never in parlors of good houses. And when it is used, the law, in Paris for example, requires the pipes to be accessible, which means being in tionship between God and the finite soul, and sight and a blemish in a finely decorated room. You can the philosophy of the present day tends to the magine the pleasure given by a good incandescent light, deny the finite soul. Men doubt Christianity; establishments. A good deal of the manufacturing of Europe is in art-work of all kinds, and this requires light of the best obtainable sort, almost regardless of cost. So, too, with the large stores which are coming to supersede committees. Speaker Sheard, however, saw few of the little old-fashioned shops in the chief cities. Light is everything to them. The Bon Marche, at Parls, where 1,500 clerks are employed, tried 400 electric lamps and has now increased the order to 2,000. Railway stations and their approaches afford another great field. The St. Lazare (the principal station in Paris) tried a few lamps in the vestibule, and will now extend the system to the whole vast establishment, covering some twelve to fifteen acres. Such crowds of people are constantly enter-ing and leaving the place (I have seen 800 descend from a single train) that clear, soft and steady light means literally a saving of life or limb every year, besides the gain in the dispatch of business.

"Cafes and theatres are among the largest users of the

electric light on the Cemtinent. And I may as well say that the incandescent light ('glow' light as it is called for shortness) does not compete with the are ('glare' light) for outdoor illumination, any more than it does in America. Indoor lighting is recognized does in America. Indoor lighting is recognized as the valuable part of the business. The Grand Opera House at Parts, with its 1,100 permanent employes, hus a gas bill of \$60,000 a year, and it has been experimenting, for the last two years, with almost every known system of electric lighting, American or otherwise. The result has finally been in favor of the Edison system, and I learned in Paris lately that the contract with that company had been concluded. A rather curious result goes with this one. The Director of Pablic Works in Paris has ead, that whoever won the Opera would stand first for the concession for that great central lighting station in Paris which will be one of the marvets of Enrope, a few years from now, in Mian, the Manzont Theatre is lighted by electricity, and the vast theatre, La Seala, now has a complete equipment of engines, soflers and dynamo machines from New York, altegnate to 10,000 lamps, in position under the shadow of the great cathedral, without so much as a wire or a puff of steam in sight from the cathedral liself. NO WIRES OVERHEAD.

"And that leads me to say that wires in the air, as we have them here, would not be tolerated in any city on In 1875 a House bill passed the Senate and was killed by the veto of President Percer. The veto message, if has been a server of the control of the presence of the clamb, but the legislature of the senate passed of the senate and was unaffered by percerted in acknowledging the justice of the clamb, but the legislature of the senate passed of t the Continent. I am almost afraid to walk in the lower part of New-York, when I see the maze of wires, many

element of discountert at sea (especially in heavy weather) is the stekening sinel of of-lamps in cabins and state-rooms. This has now been done away with, and at the same time a much greater amount of light is provided. The pleasure of reading with case in your own room in the evening is one which can scarcety be empyed with a dim and smoky of-lamp, while in an electrically lighted ship the inside rooms, where motion is least felt, become almost as cood as the entiside rooms in the older class of vessors. I have occasion to cross the Atlantic frequently, and find a good system of electric having a ble-sing which travellers fully approclate, and seem never tired of referring to in conversation."

care what becomes of them, so far as committee positions are concerned; but that they hope he will give good p aces to the men who supported them for the Speakership. It is suspected that Mr. Er vin may be made chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. It is runsered that Mr. Littlejohn may be made chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and Genera Husted chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and Genera Husted chairman of the Committee on Insurance.

Many of the members are expected in the city tomorro and their efforts to obtain good committee positions will give some foundation, perhaps, to gossip.

PREPARING FOR THE POULTRY SHOW.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN TO BE USED—GREAT INon." How do you account for the happension here that

# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIRDS.

The Rev. J. G. Wood delivered the third of his pleasing lectures on natural history at the Cooper Institute on Saturday night. His subject was the typical form and structure of the whole of the bird tribe. He said, among other things:

The first condition of structure is the manner of procuring food, and this is invariable, though the modifications are most extraordinary. We have seen that the
whole and the mole had the same bones, but
modified by the conditions under which each
creature seeks its food. The bones of the bird
are not different from those of the mole and whale.
But lightness of structure is essentially the condition of
a creature that lives in the air. In the birds it is requisite
that there should be a large surface for the intachment of
the powerful muscles necessary to raise the bird in the
air and sustain its fight. But it must be light. The bone
of a bird is hollow. It is, in fact, a tube, and addors are
in the habit of using bones of the albatress for the stems
of smoking pipes. Engineers have discovered that
a hollow column has the same strength as a
solid one containing the same amount of material. This is
the principle of the bone of a bird. It not only is filled
with air, but it communicates with the respiratory organs.
The benk with the bird has to answer the same purpose
as the human hand, and therefore the bend must be connected with a very flexible neck. To obtain this flexibility there is a change in the verrebre. In the manmalia the number of always constant, whether in
the whale or giruffe or clephant. But in birds the
number varies considerately. The swan hastwenty-three,
the heron nineteen, and the saucy sparrow, my countryman, contrives to pick up an excellent subsistence The first condition of structure is the manner of pro-uring food, and this is invariable, though the modifica-

### PULPIT THOUGHTS.

ABSTRACTS OF YESTERDAY'S SERMONS. THE REV. DR. TAYLOR'S ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN.

A sermon to young men was preached vesterday by the Rev. Dr. William M. Taylor, on the text," Wherewith al shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word." In the course of his renarks Dr. Taylor said: "There are three things that tend to keep you from giving this heed to your way. Socia duties may absorb all your leisure. Do I mean to decry social pleasure† By no means; but they do not deservel to be the chief part of life. It is a pleasure to spend a few hours now and then in social converse; but to spend days thus and weeks and vears, leaves no opportunity for the mediation out of which the true life springs. Fiction in excess is a hindrance. It has its place in literature, but a subordinate place. There are some young people who live only in the unreal realm of the imagination. More than one career of crime begins in a dime novel. Perhaps the frequency of divorce now is due in some degree to fletion that has painted vice as heroic and modesty as vulgar and commonplace. And too many of these books, I am ashamed to say, have been written by women. The pursuit of wealth is an obstruction. Every man must attend to his business. But make it serve you; beware lest you be its stave. One of the most distressang things of my life here has been to see men drift further away from religious duties as their wealth increased. Make time to answer the questions that arise in your mind, What am I i What am I doing I Where am I going I is there a future and if there is, what is my relation to it i?"

THE DOUBT OF THE PRESENT DAY. hours now and then in social converse; but to spend days

THE DOUBT OF THE PRESENT DAY. The Rev. Dr. Patton, of Princeton, at the First Presby-terian Church said: "Religion must be a subject in which it is possible to doubt, else there would be no ethical significance in the command, 'Believe and thou shall law, and individual blas is as powerful in the pew as in the jury-box. Men doubt religion; for religion is the rela under such conditions. It is much the same in industrial for the essence of Caristianity is belief in an incarnate God, and His existence is proved by the resurrection; but the resurrection is a miracle, and the philosophy of to-day denies all miracles. Men doubt the Bible and point to its inaccuracies; even if these existed, I should still hold fast to God and Christ. But medern research is only confirming the accuracy of the Bible. We are reading a deeper meaning into the first chapter of Genesis, and every geologist and astronomer is really studying theology and adding to the world's knowledge of God.

God.

"To the despondent mind the doubt of to-day may seem to show weakness and decay of faith; but to the hopeful it indicates great activity and interest in religious matters. Men are learning, the prospects of belief are brightening. We have touched bottom in this matter of unbelief, and the age of faith is setting in. Thinkers left the region of truth and voyaged to the realms of materialism and agnosticion; they are tarrying now in the tropical island of panthelsin, but presently they will finish the circumaxigation of the globe of thought and come back with fresh joy to the land from whence they sailed." A MOTTO FOR THE NEW YEAR.

In compliance with his fixed custom the Rev. R. S. MacArthur prenched from a text which he desired should be the motto of his congregation for the new year. His said in part: "What every man needs is strength. But not every man knows his need. Others knowing it, know not where to find it. There is a source of strength which when found imparts new strength and energy to the man. Said the Apostle 'When I am weak then am I strong.' This apparent paradox is easily explained by the man Josus Christ. In regard to the new year that we walk alone. But if we make Christ our companion, we shall be strong for the fight of life. In regard to the year that has past, let its mistakes and fallures admonish but not discourage us. We are told to let the 'dead past bury its dead, but the past refuses to be buried. The spectres of the past haint as. Men may change houses, spectres of the past haint as. Men may change houses, circumstances and companions, but no man can get away from his past. Its skeleton flagor is forever pointing to some sorrow, some loss, some sta. The new year hefore as is an unobsovered continent. We know not what a day may bring forth. Not man nor latticet anget can answer us: What will happen to-morrow it. A merelial mystery vells the fature. How much, then, do we need to put our trust in God and look to Him, for without His direction the way is dark. Experience cannot heip us. Experience is like the stern light on a vessel—it illumines the way behind, but not the way in front. Dean on God for support and remember that, whatever the conductive and have God!"

At the close of the service, the Dactor stated his gratt.

those who received them first. Yet the Church has de slow progress, becaute it has so dimly reflected the not of Carries. It has taken nearly 2,000 years for human element to be elluminated so that we can that God is a God of love. This knowledge brings an rease of love, of wisdom and of power, and thus can brought about the universality of Zion. The power of church is in his spirituality. There is no spell like the 11 of a Christian life. Many fear as they observe the inch, and yet that very fear was for stold. We fear beset the construction we put upon Christ's words is too be."

LOOK AHEAD AND KEEP MOVING. At the West Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John R. Paxton took as the text of his morning discourse, "Rember Lot's wife," and set forth to his people the folly of bodding book, with vain regrets, at the year that has past. Thank God and take courage, he said, should be the watchword for every man. "Remorse only cramps, and clogs, and cloys the energies. Regret over the past is a dismal for through which even Hope's bright star can not penetrate. Don't look back. The people who are forever ooking back never move forward. It is law whose workings you may discover everywhere. In science, men who cling to the past never map out any new discoveries. In art men who are satisfied with past endeavors never become great artists. In commerce and in statesmanship the progressive men are the men who statesmanship the progressive men are the men who look ahead, not back. Retrospect stagnates, but prospect stimulates. We must look back. We must look ahead and keep moving. Even the pulpit must advance, and leave off preaching the worn-out doctrines of the sixteenth century. A distinctive trail of the Romans was that they were always looking back. Hence their decline. They were always looking back. Hence their decline. They were forever talking and writing about the age that had past—the Golden A.cc. They never spoke of the good time counting. But how different with the Bible peoplet Israel is always looking forward. Her prophets were ever pointing to the future. The Golden Age was felt to be ahead and not behind. And there is only one Book, and only one religion that places the Golden Age ahead. All others place it in the past."

THE TEACHINGS OF JACOB'S DREAM. The Rev. George Alexander, pastor-elect of the Univer sity Place Presbyterian Church, said in his afternoon sermon: "Jacob's dream was more than mere fancy, The story is in reality not so much that of his dream, a of his conversion. It marked an epoch in his life. It was the first time he had ever looked up into God's face and called Him Father. Yet Jacob had been religiously brought up. His history was exactly analogous to many men and women who have been trained and nurtured in sorbed in his sheep and his goats. His posconcerns. And so with us to-day, nothing tends to choke religious yearnings so much as our occupation in secular offairs. Jacob's vision was not so wonderful. Have you not all had the like f Oh, yes, there are times when the soni aspires, and God stoops down to us, and shows us rare visions. Sometimes our eyes are holden, and we can-not see. But God will remove the film of worldliness and Jacob's vision came when he was in a condition to see. His o an place had falled. He had nothing lett bim but his shephord's staff, and now tood shows ribuself to him. It is always so, Tarough the leas of adversity many a soul has first such God. The near of sorrow has often been at letescope revealing the riches of God's grace and confort. Man will cling to the world until if gets too hot for their flueres, and then they release their grasp and take hold of God." SELF-EXAMINATION FOR THE NEW YEAR.

The Rev. Dr. Coe, in his moraing sermon, swil: been permitting that to emery upon what the fickees will be seried a final doyed blies; but that there are persons who are disposed to look at the precised against those evil agencies when have secured in many mystances to make a resort to the central authority absolutely precises and the processor.

Any micro seed in the processor of the permit of the permit of the processor of the permit of the processor of the permit of the processor of the permit of have just exchanged our annual greetings, and have

matter of affection. The romance of youth will not last forever, but the reality of love may. If no real affection is developed it is simply the result of correlessness, Arath, is it well with you in the matter of business? How many families are made writched through reckless extravagnet. Is it well, or right, to live up to the utmost limit of your means, or beyond? God requires a faithful stewardship. Once more, is it well with you in the matter of example? Would you like to have each member of your family like yourself? Are you trying to copy the Perfect example? And you husbends—how about your family altars? Is it well with any household in which no common prayer; soffered? But, finally, is it well with the, with thy soul? Count up your gains. What cround of hope have you? Are you a Christian? Is it really well with your own, or do you simply fancy that it is so! Is it well with your husband, or with your wife? Do not let the word of prayer of exhortation be silent, or of example cease, until you can say it is well. How about the children? What habits are they forming! Are they sowing to the spirit, or to the flesh! matter of affection. The romance of youth will not last

THE FORCE OF HEREDITY. "Whose son art thou, young man?" was Mr. Talmage's

text at the Tabernacle, the words of Saul to David, after the latter had overthrown Goliath. " Never was there a more unequal contest," said Mr. Talmage; "one was a mountain of braggadocio, the other a marvel of humility Saul wanted to know David's parentage, and this question of heredity is a great one. The longer I live the more I believe in blood—good blood, bad blood, honest blood, thieving blood, brave blood, owardly blood. Nothing is so well established as that certain characteristics assert themselves in different fami-lies and races. The big lips of the royal family of Austria are found in every generation; the Scottish race means persistence; the English, reverence; the Welsh, religiosity; the Indian, a roaming disposition; the Ceitic, forvidity; the Roman, conquest; the Jewish, facility of accumulation. Faculties descend in families, as the literary faculty in the Trotiopes, statesmanship in the Adamses, philauthropy in the Wilberforces; sensuality and cruelty in some families, virtue and generosity in others. Some may say, "If this be true I am discharged from all responsibility. If I come of pions parents, I will be plous," and so on. This is all erromeous, and is like reasoning that because the law of centrifugal attraction tends to throw all things to the centre. If does not discharge your responsibility. You are a trustee to keep and improve your heritage. If you come of victous parents, it is your duty to use every endeavor to obtain plety. Some of the brightest turenes in Heaven belong to those who, though born of evil parentage, fought and conquered. One of the best men I know, had a father who died biasphening God. One of the best elergymen of this country was the son of a drunken horse jeckey. Yet the power of heredity is great and hard to overome. There is a family in New-York while has been rolling in wealth for a century, yet one member of it sent back a paper of tacks because it cost two cents more than he thought it would. Grasping, and grinding, and gouging to the fourth generation, and I suppose it will be so to the philanthropy in the Wilberforces; sensuality and cruelty in thought it would. Grasping, and grinding, and gought to the fourth generation, and I suppose it will be so to the twentisth."

DEDICATING A PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. SERVICES AT THE CENTRAL CHURCH-FREE OF DEBT AFTER FIVE YEARS.

Dedication services were held in the Central Presbyterian Church. in Fifty-seventh-st., near Broadway, yesterday morning, afternoon and evening. The church was completed and occupied October 13, 1878. At that time the debt amounted to \$40,000, and it was decided to defer the services of dedication until the whole of it had been paid. That result was finally achieved a few days ago, to the greatjoy of the paster and congregation. The property is valued at \$225,000.

The Central Presbyterian Church was organized at No. 132 Elm st., January 8, 1821. It then consisted of only four members; Thomas Donaldson, John Procter, Mrs. Mary Patton and Mrs. Elizabeth Donaldson. The first clurch edifice in which the congregation worshipped was situated on the north side of Broome-st, between Marion and Elm sts. It was destroyed by fire August 9, 1854, and rebuilt in 1855. The congregation removed from Broome st, in 1866 and worshipped for a while at Palace. Hall, at Broadway and Forty-seventh-st., and afterward in a wooden building in Fiftleth-st, near Eigath-ave. In 1939. lots were purchased in Fifty-seventh-st. near Broadway running through to Fifty-sixth-st. A chapel was built on the Fifty-sixth-st, front and opened November 14, 1869. The present church originally stood in Fifth-ave, at Nineteenth-st. The work of removal was begun in 1876, and the re-erection was completed in 1878. Since its organization the church has had five pustors. The present pastor, the January, 1869. He preached at the morning service yesing of the Gospel gives additional strength to the State everyhome safer, every heart purer. In these days when social problems are coming to the surface and social problems are coming to the surface and perplexing the public mind, it is well or us to remember that not art, selence or culture, but the truth proclaimed in Caristian pulpits, can afford an anchorage strong enough to hold society to its present moorins and prevent the atter wreck of law, inside, and liberty."

The Rev, Dr. Ireneus Prime, excused inuself on the pieu of feeche health from making a long address. He said: "With only a shade sentence that your pastor ass spoken. I do not agree, He said that you had done as well you could, but that you would sladly have made this bouse more nearly period,—more beautiful. If I had more utilized of dollars than have been lost within the last week in this city, and could devote it all to church improvements, I would not add anything to the adornments of this beautiful.

enty, and could devote it all to church improvements, I would not add anything to the adornments of this beautiful house. How decent, wise and comely it is I have stood in a pupit whose thoor and whose walls were built of solid precious stones as co-dily as those which are worn as jewels upon the neeks and in the ears of the fair; and yet

solid precious stones as costly as those which are worn as jewels upon the necks and in the ears of the fair; and yet it was no more becoming, it was no more acceptable to dod, it was no more useful to tac people than tals comerly, and convenient building."

In the aftersoon there was a joint service of the church Sabbath-sechooland Mizpah Chapel Sunday-school, presided over by Eli Banedict, superintendent of the church school. At the evening services short all dresses were made by the Rev. Dr. Edi Banedict, superintendent of the church school. At the evening services short all dresses were made by the Rev. Dr. E. A. Reed, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Hamilton, the Rev. Dr. E. A. Reed, the Rev. Dr. R. S. MacArthur, and the Rev. Gr. E. Sarobridge. Dr. Hall's address was an urgent appeal to the congregation to nelly its minister by their presence at church, by talking about him and the church work to their friends and neigabers. Dr. Hamilton said that the real element of a church's strength consists in the namber of its consecrated, devoted men and women, and the degree in w lon their Caristian graces become known and recognized in the community, rather than in the magnificence of its buildings, the wealth of its congregation and the great sams of money distributed for charitable purposes. Dr. Reed congregation and the great sams of money distributed for charitable purposes. Dr. Reed congregation does its work faithfully and well it is of benefit to all the churches in its neighborhood.

Dr. Wilson spoke of the pleasure it gave him to lave the pastors of sister congregation does its work faithfully and well it is of benefit to all the churches in its neighborhood.

I have fully enough to believe that New-York will be regenerated, and that, in spite of the altempts lately made to tear away from us this holy subbath."

Dr. MacArfaur, said "I am here to extend to your pastor to come and heipfuls a few Sundays later on."

The Rev. G. E. Strobridge was the last speaker. He said: "This occasion is an illustration of the success

# TOBACCO DEALERS AND THE DUTIES.

In speaking on Saturday of the conflicting pinions which dealers in leaf tobacco hold with regard to the recent decision of the Secretary of the Treasury on the duty imposed on imported leaf tobacco, Edward Burke, Editor of the Tobacco Leaf, salat:

"Those who cought Sumatra tobacco after the passage of the internal revenue act of March 3, 1883, at high prices, and are now holding the bulk of their purchases, are more desirous of having Sumatra tobacco admitted at thirty-five cents per pound duty, as is permissable under the ruling of the Secretary of the Treas ry, for the reason that they have bought (long), and if a lower rate is now imposed they will be subjected to considerable loss. Those who are short of Sumatra tobacco are of course desirous of having it admitted here under the thirty-five cent rate duty. The growers of seed leaf, or organ-wrapper, once in the United States, are opposed to the admission Semanta tobacco under any circumstances, conceived at it comes in direct competition with their own products.

The fact of the matter is that for the current year, "The fact of the matter is that for the current year, 1884, our domestic egar manufacturers will require for their own use in the manufacture of crars not only ill had seed-leaf inducted to their wants grown in the United States, but all the Sumatra and all the fravana tobacco that will be disely to be imported during the year. Less year we produced to the country 3,173,314,738 domested edges. To produce this amount 237,998 c.sss, 6 400 points to a case, were required. Deducing 35,000 cases of Sumatra and flavana tobacco, we have 202,398 cases of seed-leaf, the amount produced last year. There are on hand now only 213,112 cases of tobacco to medified demand for manufacturing of ars for our year. From these figures you proceive that the snoply of seed-leaf appears to be inadequate to the wants of desires and moniformatives for 1884. We shall need all the Havana and Sumatra tobacco we can get."

While Hook and Ladder Truck No. 8 was going through Morton-st. hist evening, to an alarm of hist teams into collision with Car No. 33 of the Bell Line, at West-st. The windows of the car were smashed by the sole of the fire truck, and two unknown passengers were slightly cut by pieces of broken glass.

A "Bumper."-"What's phrenology, ma?"

"There is a single sentence in the English for-